

Inquiries of the Ministry

Development arises from the last response he gave. Can he tell the House what has happened to the 1969 white paper on Indian policy? Have any of its recommendations yet been implemented, and does the government still consider this white paper to be the basis of its Indian policy?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we made certain proposals to the Indians in June 1969, which brought them to hold discussions with the government. I hope that in the next few weeks we will be able to establish a permanent committee made up of department officials and the main representatives of the Indians, so that once and for all fruitful discussions may be implemented between the Indians and the government. I must say that the Indians are satisfied with this development.

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS BY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL—PROTEST BY NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has he yet given consideration to the communication he received from the National Indian Brotherhood protesting the announcement that funds allocated to his department to meet the needs of Indians in the Northwest Territories are to be administered by the Northwest Territories Council, and the fact that this decision was made in the absence of consultation with the Indian people concerned, or their approval?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the matter was settled a long time ago when the House asked the government to give greater powers to the territorial council. As a matter of fact, the hon. member was one of the movers of the project. It had been understood that it would be in the interests of all residents of the North to be administered by their local government, and I may add that four natives of the north were elected to the Council of the Territories in the last election.

[English]

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the statement the minister made a few moments ago that the government's policy is one of consultation with the Indians, does he not think that before making such a transfer of funds the Indians concerned, and their organizations, should have been consulted?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's supplementary is really in the form of an argument. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Yukon in a moment. I have to invite the co-operation of hon. members because we shall be running short of time very soon and a number of members are anxious to ask questions.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Since, obviously, it is government policy to transfer authority to administer this fund to the Northwest Territories Council, when will an

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

announcement be made that similar authority is to be transferred to the Yukon Council?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the question is fundamentally different because, in the Northwest Territories, the majority of the population is made up of Eskimos or Indians. On the other hand, in the Yukon, the Indians represent only a small proportion of the population and they continue to be governed according to the methods used in the past. Should this policy be changed, we shall inform the House in due course.

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[English]

OIL

PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON TRANSMISSION FROM NORTH TO MARKET

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of recent reports that United States oil import restrictions will be dictated only by transmission capacity, will the minister consider convening a conference to discuss oil pipeline requirements in the north to bring northern oil to the market?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the Government policy has already been announced with respect to the future construction of a North South pipeline. We are looking forward to the building of such a pipeline but no tangible offers to this effect have yet been received from the industry involved. Whenever we do receive such offers, we intend to inform the companies interested as to the acceptability of the project from the point of view of both resources and populations living in the Northwest Territories.

[English]

Mr. Skoreyko: What I wanted to know from the minister was whether he is prepared to initiate these talks with regard to pipeline requirements.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I will take the hon. member's suggestion into consideration.

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[English]

GRAIN

FAILURE OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON PRICES—STEPS TO ASSIST CANADIAN INDUSTRY

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the minister reporting to the House on behalf of the Canadian Wheat Board. I consider it to be a matter of urgency. Now that the International Grains Arrangement is in the last stages of collapse according to the minister's statement last Thursday, will